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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,875	04/13/2004	Bijan Lashgari	135/42	3174

7590 09/21/2005  
Averill & Varn  
8244 Painter Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90602

EXAMINER

HOGAN, JAMES SEAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3752

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/822,875	Applicant(s) LASHGARI, BIJAN	
	Examiner James S. Hogan	Art Unit 3752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 9-13, 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/13/2004</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,148,985 to Bancroft.

Regarding claims 1-6 and 14 Bancroft discloses a sprinkler circuit having a control circuit (14) electrically connectable in series to a sprinkler cable (10a and 10c) running between a sprinkler controller (12) and a sprinkler valve (10); and a moisture responsive circuit (sensor 16) electrically connected to the control circuit wherein the control circuit is operable by a valve signal sent from the sprinkler controller to the sprinkler valve, and wherein the control circuit is adapted to interrupt the valve signal to the sprinkler valve when the moisture responsive circuit experiences water. As per claim 2, the control circuit includes a rectifier (62) to transform an input signal to a rectified signal. As per claim 3, low-pass filters (38) generate a filtered rectified signal to higher frequency components (46 and 36). As per claim 4, the filtered signal is sent to a first port (@20a). As per claim 5 and 8, as moisture-responsive circuit generates a signal to a pair of electrodes (20 and 22) that is detected within the soil, a weak signal for drier soil (thus, a higher resistance) to a second port (@22a) and the valve signal is interrupted when the signal from the sensor exceeds a threshold (Col. 5, lines 36-48).

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As per claim 6 a relay (18) interrupts the valve signal. As per claim 14, a potentiometer (46) is between the filter and the first port.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 17-23 are allowed.

Claims 7, 9-13, 15 and 16 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 6,016,971 to Welch, disclosing a moisture-sensitive sprinkler system

U.S. Patent No. 5,445,176 to Goff, disclosing a moisture-sensitive sprinkler system

U.S. Patent No. 5,859,536 to Stockton, disclosing a moisture-sensitive sprinkler system

U.S. Patent No. 3,224,676 to Rauchwerger, disclosing a moisture-sensitive sprinkler system

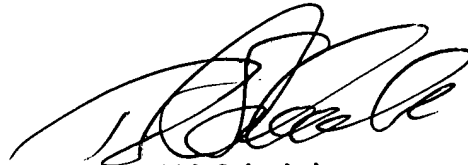
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Hogan whose telephone number is (571) 272-4902. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:00a-4:00p EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Scherbel can be reached on (571) 272-4919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JSH  
09/02/2005



**David A. Scherbel**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Group 3700**